

Peace Evangelical Lutheran
Church of Tacoma
2106 South Cushman Ave
Tacoma, WA 98405

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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Faith Opportunities for All Sundays 10-10:45 am (Zoom):

- The 7th-8th grade Feet to Faith confirmation class, and
- The adult education class.

Children: Each week we post Godly Play Bible story videos with wondering questions on our YouTube channel for families to use at home.

Middle & high school: A middle and high school youth “Change Makers” group meets Wednesdays at 6 pm. Questions? Please contact Brendan Nelson.

Future Directions Implementation A Future Directions Implementation Team is helping our congregation move into the discerned future directions God is leading us. The team is Brendan Nelson, Andie Lyons, Pam Asadi, Sally Perkins, Malcolm Carroll, Craig Cogger, and Pastor John. As we journey forward, if you have questions, please talk with one of them.

Community Bible Study Pastor John and Pastor Jae lead a Community Bible Study using Zoom on **Thursdays, 1-2 pm**, on the Bible readings for worship the following Sunday. We read scripture, share conversation, and pray as we listen for God to speak to us & through us. Email Pastor John for the Zoom link.

Christ in Our Home Would you like to receive a copy of the daily devotional “Christ in Our Home”? Contact the church office, and we will mail you one.

Prayer Chain Do you know that Peace has a Prayer Chain, a group that prays regularly the thanksgivings and needs of our community? Want to add a request to the Prayer Chain? Want to be part of the group that prays these requests? Want to learn more? Contact Sandra Puckett at quietwater60@yahoo.com.

THE CALL TO PEACE

Volume 18 ▪ Issue 1 ▪ Lent 2022



Online Worship & Faith Resources

Worship Online: 11 am live stream each Sunday on the church Facebook page; worship video posted later on the church Facebook page and YouTube channel. Find links on our homepage, as well as other worship and faith resources.

During this COVID-19 pandemic, our prayers are with families who have lost loved ones, all who suffer, and all who respond in care.

Lent, Holy Week & Easter Special Worship Services

- + **Wednesday, March 2 - Ash Wednesday**
12 - 1 pm Receive Ashes on the forehead or back of hand at a station outside the church building
7 pm In-Person & Live Stream Worship (Church Facebook page) – We receive the sign of the cross in ashes and begin Lent with confession, prayer, and Communion.
- + **Sunday, April 10 - Palm/Passion Sunday**
8:30 & 11 am In-Person Worship (11 am Live Stream on Church Facebook page) - We tell the story of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem and then his suffering and death.
- + **Thursday, April 14 - Maundy Thursday**
7 pm In-Person & Live Stream Worship (Church Facebook page) - We tell the story of Jesus’ last supper, where he washes his disciples’ feet and commands them to love one another, and we share Communion.
- + **Friday, April 15 - Good Friday**
7 pm In-Person & Live Stream Worship (Church Facebook page) - We tell the story of Jesus’ suffering and death on the cross and God’s deep and abiding love for us.
- + **Sunday, April 17 - Easter Sunday!!**
Bring cut flowers to adorn the cross outside the church.
8:30 & 11 am In-Person Worship (11 am Live Stream on Church Facebook page) - We tell the story of the empty tomb and God’s power for life over death, and we share Communion! Jesus is risen!



Peace Lutheran
Church



Pastor John’s Reflection

People of Peace,

The season of Lent begins Ash Wednesday March 2 (in-person and live stream worship at 7 pm). Lent is a journey with Jesus to his suffering and death and beyond to his resurrection at Easter. When we intentionally walk with Jesus to the cross in Lent, the Easter promise of new life in God is more meaningful! I invite you to practice the three disciplines of Lent—prayer (drawing close to God through communicating with God), fasting (giving some things up to pay closer attention to our relationship with God), and almsgiving (acts of service). For our community of faith at Peace this year, Lent is a Season of Prayer in which we journey with themes that help us in this time of transition and change as we move into the Future Directions we’ve discerned from God. I invite you to participate fully in all the offerings of this Season of Prayer, including Sunday morning worship and adult classes, Wednesday evening gatherings, and prayer and reflection on Season of Prayer themes. (See details elsewhere in this newsletter.)



Council President Carol Watson began our Church Council meeting in February by inviting Council members to share a particular verse or passage of scripture they return to, that has special meaning. It was a rich and powerful time of sharing. I’m including here the scriptures we referenced, words of hope and guidance for all of us as we begin the season of Lent. What scripture verse or passage has special meaning for you and why?

- + Mark 9:24: Immediately the father of the child (whom Jesus healed) cried out, “I believe; help my unbelief!”
- + Jeremiah 29:11: For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.
- + Psalm 46:1-3: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
- + Psalm 46:10: Be still, and know that I am God!
- + Psalm 27:1: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- + Philippians 1:6: I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.
- + Philippians 4:4-6: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
- + John 16:33: I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!
- + 1 Corinthians 13:4-8: Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.
- + Luke 24:30-32: When Jesus was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”

At the conclusion of our time of sharing scripture, Carol Watson read the following prayer, a good one for us today: Open our eyes, Lord, to see what we have been given, to see what we might give and what you might make from it. Give us faith to see, not just the seed, but the shrub it will become. Amen.

With Easter eyes, we pray to see not just the seed but the shrub it will become in our lives and in our community by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Blessed Lent and Easter,

Pastor John

In Reach Ministry



Card ministry cards

Care Ministry..... In Reach.....

With the pandemic caring for others has been crucial. Reaching out to each other, making sure that we are ok. It takes plenty of people to carry out this ministry.... We have in place people making cards, sending out cards for birthdays to Get Well Cards... (and if you are not getting Birthday or Anniversary cards, give me a call), arranging for meals, taking individuals to appointments or grocery shopping, praying and so much more. An effective care ministry goes hand in hand with discipleship, allowing the Pastor to focus more on preaching and teaching. Care ministry actually allows us to do the work that the Lord has asked of us. **I challenge each of you in the next week or so, to create a special basket of goodies and drop it by a member of the Church that you have not heard from or do not know.** Let’s get to know our PEACE family. They are awesome, they have been by my side as I have grieved for Mark.... ***Take care, reach out.***...

If you want to be a part of the Care Team, contact me.... I have some ideas to increase our participation once we are back in person. It is my hope that things will settle down and we can steam ahead.

Peace and Love to all, *Jeanie Correa* (253-278-3390)

Housing Ministry



Lent is a time for self-appraisal and realignment with values and a power that inspires us to be more, to do better. In this spirit of Lenten reflection, the Peace Housing Program Team – Carmen Lampman, Brendan Nelson, Alan Kies, Bill Hanawalt, Craig Cogger, Pastor John, and Chris Ferguson (coordinator) – is assessing the program’s place, potential, and direction in the South Hilltop Neighborhood.

We have accomplished much in seven years by bringing seven households out of or back from the brink of homelessness. As we’ve done this work primarily in service to the households, we have also preserved a portion of our neighborhood for affordable housing even as we witness gentrification and the pricing-out of long-time residents all around us. Moreover, we have worked hard to be financially self-sufficient, keeping operational costs (including mortgage, maintenance, and improvements) within total income (primarily rental receipts but also some gifts) and separate from the church’s operational budget.

But are we doing enough? Are we not able to optimize current holdings for even greater service and impact in our neighborhood? Are there not additional opportunities before us if we have the heart and trust to pursue them?

The Housing Program Team has been considering for some time now the construction of one or more detached accessory dwelling units (DADUs) – sometimes called backyard cottages – on our large S. Ainsworth Ave. parcel. We’ve been awaiting some residential zoning code changes associated with the city’s Home in Tacoma initiative to determine if we might in fact accommodate two DADUs. In December some of those zoning code changes were made, so in January we sought and received authorization from church council to engage a contractor to help us think through these possibilities by assessing the zoning requirements, generating a potential site design, and making initial inquiries with the city’s Planning Department. If in our deliberations we are able to create a feasible plan for constructing one or two DADUs, and we’re able to cover them with a business plan that sustains the financial parameters noted above, we will return to the council and congregation for approval to proceed – with full expectation, of course, that many hands in the congregation will help us with “sweat equity” labor to keep costs down!

Holding us in your hearts and lifting us up in your prayers, even as you work through your own appraisal and realignment, will be greatly appreciated.

Peace, *Chris Ferguson*, Housing Ministry Coordinator

What We've Been Up To!

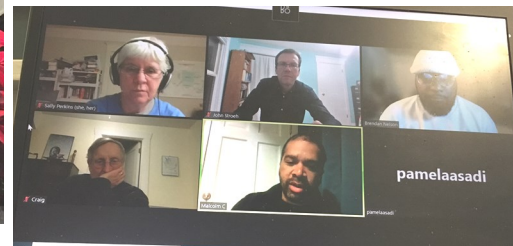


Serving a holiday meal to residents at Hilltop's Alberta Canada building.

Intergenerational Christmas Brunch



Christmas Eve worship



The Future Directions Implementation Team hard at (Zoom) work

Remember in Prayer

Those who celebrate...

- All God's children journeying through Lent and celebrating God's power for life and hope at Easter
- The Peace community as we reach out to Hilltop families, especially through affordable housing, community meals and community resources ministry, academic support, enrichment opportunities, mentoring, & faith offerings for all

Those who are hurting...

- All affected by the pandemic especially the ill and families, medical professionals, public health workers, governments and agencies working to stop this health threat, our congregation and community
- Communities of color impacted disproportionately by COVID-19; all who suffer racial injustice
- The hungry, all suffering economic poverty, the incarcerated, those without homes, all without hope
- All who grieve the death of loved ones
- All who are ill, facing surgery, recovering from hospitalization, for healing...
- All who struggle financially, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually, for hope...
- All who experience sexual harassment or abuse...
- Refugees fleeing war and poverty, and all who live midst violence, war, or unrest, especially the people of Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Iraq, Ukraine, Holy Land, Central African Republic, & Yemen

Our work...

- Our Future Directions, as we live into the Vision God has for us as a church
- Our ministries in affordable housing and community development
- Our ministry of sharing Jesus' love with children, youth, and families
- Our work for justice and peace in our world, building bridges among people

Partners in mission & service...

- Peace Community Center--tutoring, mentoring Hilltop kids
- Our global partners: Davis family in Uganda, Rev. Jane Kagochi in Kenya, our companion synod in Namibia, the church in South Sudan, the church in China, the Seigny family in Japan, House of Prayer Navajo Lutheran Church in AZ
- Living Stones prison congregation in Shelton
- Faith Action Network leading in advocacy for justice for all, and for political leaders

From Our Intern Pastor

Dear People of Peace,

It is incredible to think that the Lenten Season is almost here and spring is on the horizon! I'm excited to be offering a Focus Group this spring where we will explore and share in various ways that we come to know and experience God. We will learn about different spiritual practices that we can engage in (or maybe some of us already do) on a regular basis to connect with God in our daily lives.

We are looking forward to being able to worship in person again soon. Our leadership continues to discern the safest way forward for all. I serve on the reopening team and feel really reassured by the way our pastoral and lay leadership takes both public health and spiritual needs into account when making reopening choices.

As Lent and Easter approach, so does the end of my internship. This is a bittersweet time as I have spent 3 years worshipping and working with Peace. Peace has become my home and I will deeply miss this community. I finish my studies in May and will bring my internship to a close in early May. I hope to take memories of this community with me and would invite your prayers as I move forward from my intern position.

In peace,

Jae Bates, Intern Pastor



A Stewardship Message

What do we think about when we consider the Lenten season? The first thing many folks go to is a list of things to give up. Perhaps we could drop one word from that thought and come to a closer understanding of the Lenten journey. So, maybe we can ponder the idea of what can we give?

God has blessed our Peace family abundantly with gifts of family, friends, resources and talents. How can we use these gifts during this season to scatter blessings to our community, to our world? Recently, during our stewardship discussions, we gathered to hear stories from the Peace family of ways we can and do just that.

My prayer this Lenten season is that we can take an inventory of our gifts, make a plan and intentionally share a gift daily. It could be as simple as a gift of courtesy and kindness or a gift of care for the environment. It could happen at home, at work, at church. As we prepare for God's greatest gift to us, we can participate with gifts of our own.

Wishing all a blessed Lenten season!

Melody Duke, Stewardship Chair

Community Engagement and Outreach

Hello Peace Family,

The past few months have been quite busy for Peace, and God is really at work. We have jumped right in and began working on living out the future directions recommendations. It has been such a joy to see how many Peace folks have leaned in to engage in this very meaningful and powerful work. So much has been accomplished in such a short amount of time and I would like to share some of those things with you.

Since the beginning of the year, we hosted a 4 week series focused on the recommendations set out by the future directions team. There were so many great things shared and I think it has really opened the door for much stronger dialogue in the future. The implementation team has begun to meet and prioritize plans on how we will move forward in living out our vision and mission. We have also taken a huge leap and applied for the ELCA Big Dream grant. This grant will allow us the opportunity to strengthen our housing and community resource ministry. I can't begin to express how extremely grateful I am to all of the folks that joined us and/or contributed in some form or fashion. We truly couldn't serve our community without you.

Peace is a strong community because so many folks regularly and persistently do a variety of simple things together that give us chances to connect with others, build trust and get involved in working collaboratively. The web of trusting relationships that grows from us advocating for important issues, helping and serving our neighbors, and joining together to recognize, help, involve and entertain one another makes building strong connections possible and strengthens resilience.

When it comes to joining together to make our church, community and city better, one of the most important things we can do is to find out what brings us together. When we share something with the people around us no matter how small or insignificant it seems, it can help us make connections we never realized we could.

I'm looking forward to working alongside many of you in the coming months. I truly believe that this is our season to grow deeper as a church and enhance our impact in the Hilltop community.

In Service,

Brendan Nelson, Director of Community Engagement and Outreach



An Invitation into a Season of Prayer This Lent

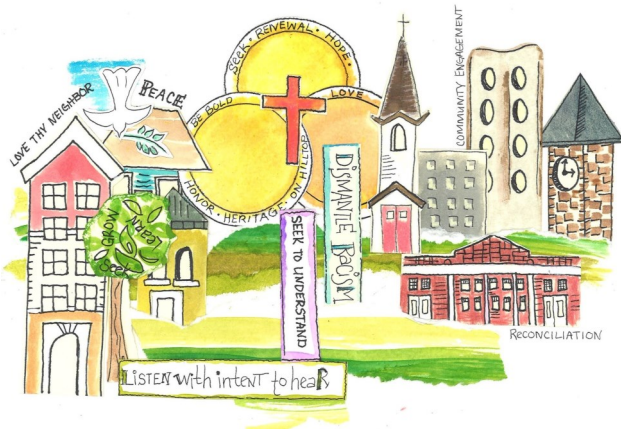


As we move into our Future Directions as a congregation, we enter together into a Season of Prayer this Lent to undergird our ministry knowing that change and transition sometimes bring uncertainty and anxiety. We look to God and share common understandings and prayer as we grow in our commitment to embrace diversity, reach out to our larger community, and seek God's justice. The themes in this Season of Prayer connect with our feelings and emotions and help us experience God's presence and guidance as we move forward together.

The Season of Prayer will include Sunday morning worship (scripture readings selected to reflect the weekly theme, sermons from various preachers, faith testimony talks, a short prayer, and a question for deeper reflection during the week), Sunday morning adult education (Zoom sessions to go deeper into the scripture and theme for that Sunday), Wednesday evening experiential activities to help us reflect on Season of Prayer themes (including prayer walks, artwork, and discussion around reflection questions), and encouragement for the congregation to use the provided prayer and reflection questions in personal devotions during the week.

Weekly Themes:

- + **Sunday March 6, Lent 1:** Celebrating the gifts/traditions our forebears in the church gave us
- + **Sunday March 13, Lent 2:** Recognizing how white privilege and the assumption of white superiority have shaped us as a church
- + **Sunday March 20, Lent 3:** Trusting the forward call of God
- + **Sunday March 27, Lent 4:** Letting go of our biases and preferences in favor of God's call
- + **Sunday April 3, Lent 5:** Exploring ways to break down these barriers in favor of equity, justice, and respect for all people
- + **Sunday April 10, Palm/Passion Sunday:** Risking as an exercise in faith
- + **Sunday April 17, Easter Sunday:** Forging a new future, continually practicing the things for which we have prayed



Season of Prayer Wednesdays in Lent (in person)

- 6 - 7 pm: Intergenerational Experiential Faith Activity (multipurpose room)**
The youngest to the oldest share together in prayer walks, artwork, and discussion around Season of Prayer reflection questions.
- 7 - 7:30 pm: Children: Journey to the Cross (multipurpose room)**
On this Journey to the Cross with Jesus, each Wednesday a new symbolic piece will be added by participants to help tell the story of Jesus' suffering and death and his deep love for us.
- 7 - 7:30 pm: Adults & Youth: Holden Evening Prayer (sanctuary)**
A beautiful sung evening prayer service that originated at Holden Village, a Lutheran retreat center in the Cascade mountains. Come, quiet your hearts, and connect with God.
- 7:30 pm: Soup to Go**
Grab some soup to take home with you, a light meal in this time of our Lenten fast.

Women's Ministry



Our Women's Bible Study will start to meet again in person in April at the church on the **second Thursday of each month at 10 am. Our first in-person Women's Bible Study will be Thursday April 14 at 10 am.** We study together the lesson in each month's **Gather** magazine. For those who have subscriptions to **Gather** magazine I encourage you to read the great articles in the magazine and follow the study in the magazine.

In God's love, *Teresa Jackson*, Women's Ministry

Peace Community Center Highlight

Dear People of Peace,

Peace Community Center invites you to our annual Learners to Leaders event! Join our community in celebration of the growth and accomplishments of Hilltop Scholars. Hear powerful stories directly from our Scholars and make a meaningful investment toward their bright futures. Together, we will continue Peace Community Center's tradition of Empowering Lifelong Learners.

Will you celebrate with us? Here are some ways to get involved with Peace Community Center's Learners to Leaders event:

- Attend our livestream event on March 18th at 4:00pm on YouTube live. You can register online at: <https://peacecommunitycenter.org/events/learners-to-leaders/>.
- Make a special Learners to Leaders gift to Peace Community Center by March 18th either online at <https://peacecommunitycenter.org/giving/> or by mailing a check to Peace Community Center at 2106 S Cushman Avenue Tacoma, WA 98405.
- Help us spread the word: invite your friends and family to join you in attending the livestream and in making an impactful gift toward our Scholars.



Learn more about McCarver Scholar Ja'Queliah at our Learners to Leaders event!

You can help us reach our goal of \$120,000 raised by March 18th that will go directly toward academic support for Scholars. For this special occasion, all gifts of \$200 or more made by March 18th will be matched up to \$20,000! Your support sustains incredible educational opportunities and mentorship for Hilltop youth each year.

Thank you for your incredible continued support of our Scholars and community. We are so grateful to have your caring and generous congregation as partners in this work.

Gratefully,
Peace Community Center



Music Ministry - the Lenten Journey

Peace Family,

This is the second year the choir cannot come together during this time of the season of Lent. The pandemic has taught us to reevaluate and prioritize what is really important and meaningful in our church, work and family.

As we continue on this journey, be intentional about self - reflecting, self-correcting, and redirecting our hearts toward fasting, prayer and works of love. Choose at this time to let the light of Christ shine through in our words and deeds.

It Is Well With My Soul

When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll, whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well it is well with my soul.

Blessings,
Twylla Moore, Music Director



Opportunities to Serve & Give

Community Resources Ministry Want to support the grab and go Community Meals Fridays from 5:30-6:30 pm? Provide and serve a meal for up to 40 people OR help serve grab and go containers OR help clean up. If you have a Fred Meyer rewards card please link it to Peace. Go to www.fredmeyer.com, community rewards, and enter Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church or key in Fk117. Questions or to volunteer: contact Teri Jelinek (tljelinek50@gmail.com).

Want to Assist Sunday Mornings for Worship? We need greeters, ushers, readers, assisting ministers, song leaders, and tech helpers. Please contact Pastor John.

Contribute to a New Peace Devotional Calling all artists, writers, photographers, song writers, crafters of many things, & more, to publish your works in a new book. Submit your piece or direct questions to Shari Shelton at 8ssheltonz8@gmail.com.

Want to Give Offering to Peace Through Auto-Deduction? Contact the church office.

Thrivent Choice Dollars Are you a member of Thrivent Financial? Do you have Choice Dollars to direct to a charitable organization? Please consider directing your Choice Dollars to Peace Lutheran Church or Peace Community Center by logging into your account on the Thrivent website. Do it by March 31.

Our Lenten Offering Our offering this Lent is for Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services to help Afghan refugees. When our new Afghan neighbors arrive in the United States, many have little more than the clothes on their backs. Our gifts to Neighbors in Need: Afghan Allies help provide essential support for newly arrived families, including emergency medical care, temporary housing, financial support for basic necessities, and more. Please give to "Peace Lutheran Church," earmarked "Lenten Offering."

Who's Who on the Peace Lutheran Church Staff

- Pastor: John Stroeh, 253-383-1317 ext. 101, pastorjohn@peacetacoma.org
- Director of Community Engagement & Outreach: Brendan Nelson, 253-383-1317 ext. 103, brendan@peacetacoma.org
- Intern Pastor: Jae Bates, 253-383-1317 ext. 104, jae@peacecommunitycenter.org
- Music Director: Twylla Moore, twylla@peacetacoma.org
- Coordinator of Children's, Youth, & Intergenerational Ministry: Jayna Detweiler, jayna@peacetacoma.org
- Nursery Attendant: Rebecca Valencia
- Community Resources Coordinator: Teri Jelinek, tljelinek50@gmail.com
- Office Coordinator: vacant, 253-383-1317 ext. 100, plcadmin@peacetacoma.org
- Finance Coordinator: Jenny Haferbecker, jenny@peacetacoma.org
- Custodian: Ana Sanchez

Check out Peace Lutheran Church on Social Media!

Check out the website: [Peace Lutheran Church](#)

Find us on Facebook:
[Peace Lutheran Tacoma](#)
[Peace Lutheran Church Youth Ministry](#)

Instagram: [@peacelutheranchurch](#)

Check out our YouTube page: [Peace Videos](#)



Reopening Team Update

Our Reopening Task Force meets regularly to discuss concerns, ideas, and barriers to in-person worship and activities at Peace. We understand the deep spiritual need for in-person connection as well as the continued concern for personal and public health. During the recent omicron surge, we decided that we would not worship in person for several weeks out of concern for the health and safety of all and out of an abundance of caution. We have now returned to in-person worship.

Our most recent message to the congregation is this: Based on the continuing decrease in local COVID rates, in-person worship at Peace will resume on **Sunday February 27**. We will start with only the 11 am worship service for the first few weeks as we rebuild worship assistant capacity. We will continue to use masks, physical distancing, and increased airflow as precautions to reduce risk.

Peace, health, and safety to you in Jesus’ name, *Reopening Task Force*
Joseph Anderson, Ben Flesher, Brendan Nelson, Pastor Jae, Pastor John, Carol Watson

Children’s, Youth, and Intergenerational Ministry

We are “called into childhood.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer is arguably one of the most famous Lutheran voices that has reached outside of Lutheran spheres. While many know Bonhoeffer as an anti-Nazi dissenter, this was not what Bonhoeffer originally set out to address through his ministry. This isn’t to say that Bonhoeffer was unintentionally or passively anti-Nazi, rather that Bonhoeffer had a faith life, theological convictions, and vision before Adolf Hitler rose to power. Did you know that Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s core theological convictions and his central ministerial focus was initially in youth ministry? Perhaps some of you Lutheran history buffs know about Bonhoeffer as a “youth worker” but learning about Bonhoeffer’s passion for the theological basis for strong youth ministry was amazing to read and hear about.

Here at Peace Lutheran Church, we have always pursued a strong connection to our neighborhood’s children, youth, and young adults. Much of what Bonhoeffer believed about youth ministry really resonates with our community’s approach to young people and youth ministry. Bonhoeffer asserted that, “Jesus the child was not merely a transitional stage on the way to adulthood; something to overcome” (Root 76). In other words, Bonhoeffer wanted people, and the church in particular, to take the faith life of children seriously. He wanted to assert that childhood is not simply something that is undesirable and should be “grown out of” but that childhood is actually a calling where young people experience God closely. He references Matthew 18:2-3 where Jesus says, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (NRSV). Jesus shows us that childhood is not to be “overcome” or an immaturity that we must shed. Bonhoeffer lets us know, through the Gospel, that “God belongs to children” (Root 77). Bonhoeffer actually developed a lot of his theological approach to youth ministry while living in Harlem, NY during seminary. It was through his positive experiences at a Black Baptist church that Bonhoeffer developed his belief that our faith must be engaged in the real world issues that we face in community.

Here at Peace, we try to approach our relationships with young people in a similar light. We respect that all children and youth are living into who God made them to be and do our best to support them where they are. We engage in the society and world around us and address the real-life concerns of our youth. Our belief is that God “belongs” to our children and youth just as much as God “belongs” to our adult community members. We know that God came to dwell with all in Christ Jesus; including our young members!

In fact, Bonhoeffer believed that we are “called into childhood” through our baptism in Christ. In reference to Matthew 18, he wanted us to understand that childhood is actually something we are invited into by God. There are different ways we can embody this. Maybe it is through curiosity and wondering or through engaging in play and joy. How do you engage in “childhood” in your faith?

Written by Pastor Jae Bates

Welcome to Our New Coordinator of Children, Youth, & Intergenerational Ministry

Peace Lutheran Church welcomes our new Coordinator of Children, Youth, & Intergenerational Ministry! Jayna Detweiler started her part-time position on the church staff mid-February! Please welcome her when you get a chance and take the opportunity to get to know her. She will help coordinate these ministries, connect with kids and parents, and encourage us to grow in faith together. Blessings and welcome, Jayna!

From the Church Council



The new year has begun for the Council and we are grateful and happy to welcome Elyse McWilson, Youth Rep; Michaela Cox, Education; Joseph Anderson, Vice President; and Gail Storrs, Secretary; as well the continuing members. Please feel free to reach out to any of us when you have questions, concerns, suggestions.

According to the Constitution of Peace Lutheran Church, two of several defined responsibilities of the Council are for the “general oversight of the life and activities of the congregation” and “for the financial and property matters of this congregation”.

We are excited about the integration of Future Directions plans for ministry and we are hearing about the Housing Ministry focus both of which you can read more about in other articles in this newsletter.

We are also addressing the need to repair the siding and steeple shingles that have been damaged with age and storms of the season.

A third responsibility of the Council is “to provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and perform its mission.” This is a critical concern at this time as we seek a qualified office administrator. Please be prayerful about this. Can you, will you, volunteer to help out with office tasks in the meantime?

So, you can see the nitty gritty things that need to be accomplished alongside the plans and dreams of being the loving neighbors to our community at large.

Where and how might you see yourself fitting in your service to God and neighbor?

With gratefulness,
Carol Watson, Council President

Your 2022 Church Council: President – Carol Watson; Vice President – Joseph Anderson; Treasurer – Pam Asadi; Secretary – Gail Storrs; Community Resources – Craig Cogger; Education – Michaela Cox; Evangelism/Outreach – Teresa Jackson; In-reach – Jeanie Correa; Stewardship – Melody Duke; Worship – Antonio Yune; Youth – Elyse McWilson

Mission Statement

Compelled by the love of God and our faith in Jesus Christ, Peace Lutheran Church, a diverse people of faith, in partnership with Peace Community Center, seeks to realize God’s dream for the world through worship, learning, giving, and serving.

Core Values...

- Serve with **COURAGE**
- Embrace **DIVERSITY**
- Cultivate **COMMUNITY**
- Seek **JUSTICE**

Vision Statement

We believe God’s **vision** for Peace is to be a **diverse** community of faith **in the Hilltop** where all are welcome- a community that is **Spirit-filled, compassionate, healthy, reconciled, and just.**